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8 January 1965
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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE
RELATING TO NATIONAL SECURITY

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

6 January 1965

Belgium-Congo: Belgian Foreign Minister Spaak is seeking European support for his Congo policy prior to negotiations with Tshombé in Brussels.

At the North Atlantic Council meeting on 6 January, Spaak hopes to make clear to other NATO members the gravity and complexity of the Congo situation and to ask them for material support. He plans to point out that the economic and financial burden of trying to keep the Congo from chaos is too much for Belgium to bear alone.

Spaak probably wants to assess European opinion of his Congo policy before opening negotiations with Tshombé. There is little evidence, however, that the Europeans are prepared to give any substantial amount of material or moral support.

Belgium is laying considerable stress on the talks with Tshombé. Colonel Van der Walle, the chief coordinator in the Congo of Belgian mercenaries and advisers, returned to Belgium in mid-December indicating that his return to the Congo might depend on the outcome.

Belgian officials and businessmen are particularly concerned to know exactly what Tshombé meant by his 29 November decree dissolving a Belgian-controlled holding company which had authority to control and grant concessions in the Congo.

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NOTES

UN-Indonesia: Sukarno's threat to withdraw from the UN has been received with general disapproval and dismay by UN delegations, including those of many Afro-Asian states. The Indonesian mission in New York remains uninformed and confused as to Djakarta's precise intentions. An Indonesian official gave the US Mission the impression that the trip of the Indonesian permanent delegate to Djakarta does not constitute a departure from the UN post but is rather for consultation to clarify his government's plans. [REDACTED]

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Israel-Syria: Further trouble seems likely along the Israeli-Syrian border. On 4 January, Israeli Prime Minister Eshkol again rejected the suggestion that Israel stop its patrols along a disputed section of the frontier, although he agreed that his government would keep them to the lowest level consistent with their "symbolic" mission. The movement of Israeli armored vehicles along a road which at one point may cross the ill-defined border has repeatedly provoked Syrian sniping, and this in turn leads to exchanges with heavier weapons. [REDACTED]

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Cuba-USSR: Pravda's coverage of the anniversary of the Cuban revolution included a statement by the Cuban ambassador in Moscow on the "enormous significance" of the Soviet sugar agreement to the Cuban economy. The US Embassy interprets this as a possible Soviet effort to allay any Cuban uneasiness that the agreement might be altered. The USSR has promised to purchase 2.1 million metric tons this year at six cents per pound, the price last year's agreement established as payable through 1970. Meanwhile, the price of sugar on the world market has plunged to about two and one-half cents. [REDACTED]

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Belgium: Foreign Minister Spaak says that he does not intend to give Polish Foreign Minister Rapacki the impression that he favors the Rapacki Plan for a denuclearized zone in central Europe in their talks beginning 12 January. Spaak also told Ambassador MacArthur he would not say anything that could complicate the West's current examination of plans for a joint nuclear force. In the past Spaak has occasionally flirted with denuclearization plans, and as recently as 8 December a Polish weekly quoted him as saying in a discussion of nuclear-control schemes, "I am far from being hostile to ideas which have been expressed by Gomulka and Rapacki."

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